

Principles of Combat Coverage

1. Open and independent coverage should be the standard method of covering U.S. military operations.
2. Pools may be the only method practical for covering initial stages of an operation. If used they should be disbanded as soon as possible but within 24-36 hours. Pools should not prevent coverage of on-scene media.
3. Pools may be the only method practical for some extremely remote operations.
4. Credentialed media will be provided a set of ground rules for covering operations. Media who violate those rules will lose their credentials to cover the operation. Media will try to assign experienced reporters to cover military operations.
5. Journalists will be provided access to all major military units. Special operations restrictions may prohibit coverage in some cases.
6. Public affairs officers should act as liaisons but not interfere with the reporting process.
7. Under conditions of open coverage, commanders will allow media to ride aboard aircraft and vehicles when feasible. the military is responsible for pool transportation.
8. Commanders will allow media access to communications systems for transmission of pool products and when possible make such facilities available for transmission under open and independent coverage.
9. These principles will also apply to the DoD National Media Pool.
10. **Not accepted by DoD** News materials—words and pictures will not be subject to military security review.